

China. Back in 2005, the U.S. and China emitted about the same amount of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere, about 7 million metric tons. Five years later, the U.S. is down a little bit. China is up to 10 million and growing every day. China must be part of this.

Now, how are we going to get countries like China and others lined up on this? Well, I think we have got a strong tool. We can demand reductions. We can demand that trade agreements with these nations will level the playing field in many ways.

We have ignored labor and the environment in many of these trade agreements. We can't put U.S. manufacturers at a disadvantage when they are dealing with climate change issues and carbon dioxide emissions and the Chinese aren't, because we live, unfortunately, on the same planet as the Chinese, and they are destroying the world's climate very, very quickly.

So, even if we take strong measures here, we have got to force those measures on other countries.

Now, I think that the trade agreements are an ideal place to do this. Unfortunately, the Obama administration is of two minds on this issue. I have been acting very forcefully to protect the President's authority to regulate carbon emissions and encourage the EPA to go ahead with strong measures. The Republicans are attempting to overturn and preempt that authority, but it does exist.

Unfortunately, in the Office of the Special Trade Representative, appointed by the President of the United States, they are busily undermining the President's climate change agenda. Yes, they are acting at complete odds with the Environmental Protection Agency.

The European Union has adopted measures to reduce the global greenhouse gas emissions from all fuels and transportation fuels included by 10 percent within a relatively short period of time. One of those provisions would score the dirtiest sources of fuels as the way they should be, for emitting more carbon. That would mean there would be a penalty against oil, gasoline, diesel extracted from tar sands—the dirtiest, most polluting way to obtain oil that anyone knows of.

Now, the European Union is moving ahead, but now the President's Special Trade Representative, appointed by the President, somehow is saying that the EU shouldn't do this; the U.S. objects to that, and they are in league with Canada in attempting to overturn these steps by the European Union.

The President needs to rein in his Special Trade Representative, and we need to protect and encourage the President to deal with this very serious issue.

NATIONAL HUMAN TRAFFICKING AWARENESS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, the crime of human trafficking is complex and it is destructive. It shatters the lives of its victims and their loved ones. In an effort to bring attention to this modern-day form of slavery, we recognize January 11, 2014, as National Human Trafficking Awareness Day.

This multibillion dollar criminal industry exists in every State. The statistics are stunning, and it is essential this national awareness day shed light on a human rights tragedy which occurs in every region across our Nation.

Though the impact of this crime affects men, women, and children, approximately 80 percent of all human trafficking victims are women, and nearly half are minors. Overall, there are 21 million individuals who are victims of forced labor in a \$32 billion industry that is only second to drug trafficking as the most profitable form of international crime.

Combating human trafficking requires commitment and cooperation at all levels of government and among agencies and among nonprofits. I see this collaboration taking root in my district in Pennsylvania.

I was pleased to attend a meeting at Calvary Church in Souderton, teaming up with local nonprofit, Worthwhile Wear, poised to address the issues of shelter and homelessness as they relate to human trafficking prevention and recovery.

The county-wide Bucks Coalition Against Trafficking created a local resource to raise public awareness and help end this horrendous crime through community education, victim identification, and legislative change. The Coalition has commemorated their 1-year anniversary, and their outstanding achievements have been recognized by the county of Bucks.

As the Federal Representative for Pennsylvania's Eighth Congressional District and a member of the Victims Rights Caucus, I am working to support and pass Federal laws to end this heinous crime through the introduction of bipartisan legislation that reflects the interests, rights, and the needs of victims.

January 11, 2014 is National Human Trafficking Awareness Day, but every day we must work together, forming a united front against human traffickers, and together we can raise public consciousness, prevent violence, protect the vulnerable, support survivors, and punish the offenders who perpetrate these crimes.

I appreciate the time on the floor this morning, Mr. Speaker.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until noon today.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 56 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Patrick J. Conroy, offered the following prayer: Eternal God, we give You thanks for giving us another day.

We pause now in Your presence and acknowledge our dependence on You.

We ask Your blessing upon the men and women of this, the people's House, who have returned to their stations here on Capitol Hill.

As the new session begins, help them, and indeed help us all, to obey Your law, to do Your will, and to walk in Your way. Grant that they might be good in thought, gracious in word, generous in deed, and great in spirit.

Many of their fellow citizens continue to struggle through a difficult economic stretch and look to them for helpful leadership. Grant them the resolve to fashion solutions that might benefit those who are in need.

Make this a glorious day in which all are glad to be alive and ready to serve You.

May all that is done this day be for Your greater honor and glory.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. HAHN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. HAHN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

OPPOSITION TO UNESCO FUNDING

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, there are congressional and administration attempts to circumvent and undermine decades-old laws that prohibit the United States from funding

any agency at the United Nations that admits a nonexistent Palestinian state.

In October 2011, UNESCO chose to welcome Palestine to its membership. It did so, knowing full well that this would trigger U.S. laws that prohibit us from funding any entity at the U.N. that grants membership to the PLO or any other organization that doesn't meet the internationally recognized attributes of statehood.

We must not grant a waiver to UNESCO nor approve any backdoor congressional attempt to provide U.S. funding to UNESCO until it reverses its decision regarding the Palestinian Authority.

We are in an economic tailspin, Mr. Speaker. So why waste \$250 million in U.S. taxpayer money by giving it—wasting it—to UNESCO? It is madness.

ACA SUCCESS STORY

(Mr. VEASEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of over a million Americans who saw their unemployment benefits disappear on December 28. With our economy still struggling and unemployment remaining unacceptably high, now is not the time to take more money out of the pockets of those who are struggling to simply get by.

This week, Republicans would rather continue debating the Affordable Care Act instead of working to get our economy back on track by helping to raise the standard of living for the poorest Americans and provide assistance to the unemployed.

Democrats in the House and the Senate are working to offer solutions here in Washington and back in our districts. In the district I represent, I am helping constituents find jobs by hosting a job fair on January 24. The constituents I serve will have the opportunity to apply for jobs on site, network with employers, and attend professional development workshops.

Mr. Speaker, we need to address the job crisis in America, and Republicans need to get back to the business of fixing our economy.

OBAMACARE PROBLEMS

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, just last week I received the following letter from a constituent:

DEAR CONGRESSWOMAN FOXX: On December 10, I applied for a Silver level plan and received confirmation the same day that my application was completed. Since then, I've waited for my invoice so I could pay for the insurance. I called on December 23 and waited close to 5 hours on the phone for the next available rep, only to be put on hold for another one and a half hours and finally be told that they had no idea when my invoice would be sent out. As of January 2, 2013, I have not been billed for my new insurance. I have six prescriptions that need to be filled

at the end of the month. When will the program be fixed and operational?

Mr. Speaker, it is a good question and the American people deserve an answer.

UNEMPLOYMENT EXTENSION COMPENSATION

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, it has been 11 days now since 1.3 million Americans have been cut off from their unemployment benefits, an important safety net, and this House has yet to address this crisis. Instead of offering a solution to extend emergency unemployment benefits, House Republicans keep moving the goal posts and changing their position.

What on Earth are we waiting for? Every week that goes by, more and more Rhode Islanders lose their emergency unemployment benefits. The longer we wait to fix this problem, the more serious it becomes for the long-term unemployed.

Fifty years ago today, President Johnson announced his war on poverty. To commemorate that anniversary, this Congress is willing to write off and forget about 1.3 million Americans who are struggling to find work.

What kind of public servants have we become when we take away the last safety net for struggling families 3 days before Christmas? This is shameful.

Mr. Speaker, I urge you to bring a bill to the floor to extend emergency unemployment benefits; 1.3 million Americans can't wait another day, another week, or another month for this Congress to act. Let's do the right thing and end this nightmare for those we serve.

HOUSE-PASSED PRO-GROWTH JOBS BILLS

(Mr. WALBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, a new year brings new perspective and, for many, a fresh start. Many of my hard-working constituents hope this year will bring a healthy economy with increased opportunities.

My House colleagues and I didn't need a new year to make this our goal. Last year, we passed dozens of bills, making job creation and expanding opportunity our central focus. This included bills to make energy more affordable, to repeal ObamaCare and to expand education for students and job-seekers. If the Senate would only act on these measures, we could offer more opportunities for our constituents today: bills like the Energy Consumers Relief Act, halting major new regulations that increase prices and hurt the economy; the Northern Route Approval Act, to finally approve the Keystone pipeline and immediately create thou-

sands of good-paying jobs; or the SKILLS Act, to eliminate and streamline dozens of overlapping Federal programs and to help connect job-seekers with the skills they need.

I look forward, Mr. Speaker, to continued work with my colleagues, supporting additional measures to strengthen our economy, to provide more opportunity for all, and to put Americans back to work.

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker and House Republicans, happy new year. You look great, but we have failed to address the issues of the people who are unemployed. I call upon all of us today to remember that many people, as we sit here, are facing fiscal devastation.

The social safety net is used to purchase very basic necessities, such as food and rent; and many Americans are treading now, just staying above the water. There were 1.3 million Americans who were without unemployment insurance as of December 28. In another few weeks, 1.9 million more will join them, and 174,000 of them are from Texas.

I know that we have not really thought about this seriously. I know that so much time was spent in attempting to overturn the Affordable Care Act that we forgot that there are people we have failed to provide jobs for who are now unemployed and whom we cannot forget.

This is not just their problem. This is our problem. Please join me in making sure that we restore their safety net.

THE QUALIFIED MORTGAGE RULE

(Mr. PITTENGER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTENGER. Mr. Speaker, I stand regarding the qualified mortgage rule that will go into effect this Friday. This rule is going to have a devastating effect on the housing industry.

Once again, the long hand of the Federal Government goes out to dictate policy to the financial industry on whom they should make loans to. Once again, we face another crisis in the housing industry. The Federal Government, frankly, was one of the major culprits in the housing demise that we have just gone through, making easy credit for borrowers. Now they are telling financial institutions clearly the wrong direction in which to go. We need the markets to work. The Federal Government has proven also that they sure cannot handle health care through ObamaCare.

Why do we think that the government knows best when it comes to telling community banks and others who